

# Biscayne Point News

Winter 2001/02

City of Miami Beach

Neighborhood Services Department

## Miami Beach Police Department Introduces NRO Program

The Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) Program was instituted in March 2001. The program divides the City into three districts, south, middle and north, and provides one officer as a NRO to each district. The primary responsibility of the NRO is to address the special problems and needs within their district. In order to fulfill that responsibility and build a bridge of trust with the residents, the NRO attends neighborhood meetings, civic meetings and youth-oriented activities, and interacts with residents on a daily basis. For more information about the Neighborhood Resource Officer Program, please contact Officer David de la Espriella at 305-993-2060.

*"We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community."*



City of Miami Beach  
Neighborhood Services  
1700 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
305-673-7580 (phone)  
305-604-2498 (fax)

## Neighborhood Meeting Addresses Quality of Life Issues

Approximately 30 residents attended the Biscayne Point Neighborhood meeting on December 5, 2001. Those in attendance identified a number of concerns affecting the community's quality of life. This newsletter highlights those areas and provides important information regarding the City's programs and the community's responsibilities. Educating the community is the first step toward enhancing the quality of life in

neighborhoods. The following six items were identified as neighborhood priorities:

1. Work with the Police Department's HOT (Homeless Outreach Team) and the City's new Homeless Coordinator to identify areas of concentration and individuals in need of homeless outreach.
2. Increase presence of Code Compliance officers to educate residents and enforce ordinances.

3. Provide the community with a telephone list for the City's 24-hour services.

4. Educate community on parking ordinances.

5. Provide better education on sanitation pick-up schedules, proper placement of waste and city codes regulating the disposal of waste.

5. Provide the community with information about the rules and regulations for "affordable" and "Section 8" housing.

## Funds Offer Opportunities for Housing

The City of Miami Beach is committed to providing quality affordable housing and home ownership opportunities, rehabilitating the housing stock, and revitalizing the City's neighborhoods in order to establish a more viable urban community. The City's Housing Division administers community federal and state funds and coordinates all housing activities funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, and the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. All the programs administered by the City operate on a citywide basis. Currently, the City operates the following programs: Home Buyer Assistance Program; Housing Counseling; Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program; Multi-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program; and HOME Program. For more information, call 305-673-7260.

**What are housing choice vouchers (section 8)?** Housing choice vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies (PHAs), Housing Authority of the City of Miami Beach. The PHAs receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to administer the voucher program. A family that is issued a housing voucher is responsible for finding a housing unit where the owner agrees to rent under the program. Rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the PHA on behalf of the participant. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. Under certain circumstances, if authorized by the PHA, a family may use its voucher to purchase a modest home. Call 305-532-6401 for information.

## NO PARKING

The Parking Department has increased enforcement of commercial vehicles parked in residential areas to include boats, vehicles displaying "for-sale" signs, abandoned vehicles, and vehicles parked hazardously in the right-of-way or blocking a driver's line of sight. Additionally, violations may be issued for prohibiting parking: blocking fire hydrants, crosswalks, sidewalks, and obstructing traffic. The Parking Enforcement Unit will continue to issue citations and monitor the area to ensure compliance with parking regulations. To report violations, contact the Parking Department at 305-673-7505 or Neighborhood Services Community Resource & Outreach Division at 305-673-7580.

## Important Phone Numbers

**CiviCall**  
(For Information & Comments)  
305-604-CITY (2489)

**Office of the Mayor and Commission**  
305-673-7030

**Office of the City Manager**  
305-673-7010

**Police (non-emergency)**  
305-673-7900

**Fire (non-emergency)**  
305-673-7120

**Neighborhood Services**  
305-673-7077

**Community Resource & Outreach**  
305-673-7580

**Parks & Recreation**  
305-673-7730

**Parking**  
305-673-PARK

**City Job Hotline**  
305-673-7777

**City Clerk**  
305-673-7411

**Bulky Waste Pick-Up Appointment**  
305-633-2700

## 24-Hour Services

**Water & Sewer Streets Sidewalks Streetlights Stormwater**  
305-673-7625

**Traffic Signals**  
305-592-3580

**FPL**  
(power outages & street lights on wooden poles)  
305-442-8770

## City Institutes a Program to Assist Homeless

The City of Miami Beach has assigned a high priority to identifying and ending the cycle of homelessness. As part of the City's ongoing efforts, the Neighborhood Services Department recently hired Olga Vasquez as the City's Homeless Coordinator. The City works through the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust outreach team to utilize their Continuum of Care system.

The Continuum of Care system is a model based on the understanding that homelessness is not caused merely by a lack of shelter, but involves a variety of underlying, unmet needs – physical, economic and social. The system is a three-phase comprehensive strategy for the delivery and coordination of homeless housing and services. These phases are as follows:

**Temporary Care** (*emergency housing*) for seven to up to 60 days. There are two Homeless Assistance Centers with a total of 650 beds available throughout Miami-Dade County. These "centers" provide:

- On-site daycare facilities, full-service health clinics, and vocational classrooms staffed by the public school system;

- On-site services of representatives from the Social Security Administration, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Legal Services, the welfare-to-work program, employment placement programs and the Veteran's Administration.

**Primary Care** (*transitional housing*) with intensive case management services for six to nine months.

**Advanced Care** (*permanent housing*)

- Utilizing low-income affordable housing for homeless persons as the third and final stage of the continuum.
- A plan for achieving a goal of 2,500 new permanent housing in the form of project-based, scattered site, market rate, and/or voucher-funded units.
- Housing that re-integrate homeless persons into the community and projects that provide long-term, follow-along services, such as relapse prevention, continuing education, and family support.

For more information about the Continuum of Care program, contact Olga Vazquez, Homeless Coordinator, at 305-673-7000, ext. 3404.

## Sanitation -- Waste Services Let's Talk Trash!



Do not set your garbage out for collection more than 24 hours before your scheduled pick-up.

Regular residential garbage does not have to be placed on the swale, the area in front of your home adjacent to the street. BFI will collect residential waste from back or side yard two times a week.

Yard clippings, not exceeding 50lbs, should be properly containerized or bundled, and placed out on the swale for collection on your second scheduled collection day of the week, and cannot be placed prior to 24 hours of your scheduled pickup date. Gardeners must remove yard waste immediately following the work performed. Garden waste that is over 50lbs is considered bulky waste.

Bulky waste must not be placed on the swale prior to 24 hours of your scheduled pick-up appointment. Each residence is entitled to four scheduled bulky waste pick-up appointments per calendar year. Additional pick-ups may be scheduled at a cost of \$20 per cubic yard. For an appointment, call BFI at 305-633-2700.

Please be reminded that the City Code prohibits the accumulation or storage of trash on swales. Violations will be issued to property owners with

waste on the swale in front of their property for more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pickup date.

Fines for the above are \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second violation within 12 months, and \$500 for the third violation within 12 months of the first violation.

For more information, call the Sanitation Department at 305-673-7616 or BFI at 305-633-2700.

## CODE INCREASES PRESENCE

In response to recent requests for additional code enforcement, the City of Miami Beach Code Compliance Division has recently increased its presence of officers in the North Beach District (63<sup>rd</sup> to 87<sup>th</sup> streets), from four to six. This increase translates into a greater presence in the Biscayne Point neighborhood.

Code Compliance will continue monitoring the the neighborhood for violations. Code Compliance routinely works with residents and responds to requests for service. Residents are encouraged to report any potential violations to their Community Resource Coordinator at 305-673-7580 or directly to Code Compliance at 305-673-7555.